

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



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*Hand for Ben Balson*UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

BY LIAISON

Date: June 6, 1977
To: Director of Central Intelligence
From: Clarence M. Kelley, Director
Subject: OCELOT;
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

This is to advise of pertinent developments in a double agent operation, assigned the code name "Ocelot," which involves a meeting between our asset and Cuban Intelligence Officers (CIO's) in Mexico on May 19, 1977. We learned, after debriefing the asset upon his return from Mexico, that the format of the meeting had unexpectedly involved a videotaped interview of our asset by Cuban technicians concerning his knowledge and participation in anti-Castro Cuban exile activities. (S)

The asset developed in this operation first became of investigative interest to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in November, 1976, when allegations were received that he was in contact with known CIO's in Jamaica during October and November, 1976. Subsequent investigation, coordinated closely with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), confirmed an active relationship with Cuban officials in Jamaica, Panama and Mexico. A successful interview of asset was effected on April 8, 1977, which resulted in establishing a double agent operation. At that point, the asset furnished details of seven previous meetings with CIO's in Jamaica, Panama and Mexico. In addition, asset furnished a typewritten note containing instructions for his next meeting in Mexico City, on May 19, 1977, which involved a coded telephone call to the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, to activate the scheduled meet at a pre-determined time and place. The purpose of this meeting, according to the asset, was for the passage of additional information concerning the activities of Cuban exile groups in the United States and Latin America, as had been done at previous meetings. (S)

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Classified by 5182
Exempt from GDS, Categories 2 and 3
Date of Declassification, Indefinite



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The asset has advised that he was transported by automobile from the meet site in Mexico City to a hotel room equipped with videotape equipment and occupied by two Cuban technicians. The asset was then asked questions by CIO's and his responses were recorded on videotape. They assured the asset that this tape would be shown to high Cuban officials, including Fidel Castro, and that it would not be made public. There is, however, obvious propaganda value in this film which could be utilized by the Cuban Government. Asset was specifically advised by CIO's that Premier Fidel Castro has a forthcoming television news interview with an unnamed U. S. news commentator, and that they wanted Castro to see this videotape prior to his interview. (S)

According to the asset, the interview began with questions regarding his family life in Cuba before the Castro revolution, after which he was asked to comment on the former Batista Regime in Cuba. He was then asked to name the political movements of which he had been a member. He told the interviewer that in 1964 he had worked with Alpha 66, a militant anti-Castro organization headquartered in Miami, Florida, in helping approximately twenty-eight Cuban exiles and arms pass through Puerto Rico to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for use against Cuba and that all but four of these Cuban exiles had returned to Puerto Rico. The four who did not return are now in Cuban jails. (S)

Asset was also asked about his participation in an assassination attempt of Fidel Castro in Chile in 1971. The asset stated that he had participated in the attempt with Antonio Veciana, a Cuban exile now residing in Miami. When asked if Veciana had been employed by the CIA, he replied that he did not know, however, assumed that he was, based on the fact that Veciana had used a car with United States diplomatic license plates to transport the necessary arms and equipment from Bolivia, where Veciana

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was employed in the United States Embassy, to Chile. This plan was aborted by other Cuban exile participants at the last minute. Asset had previously furnished this information to CIO's during other meetings. (S)

Asset was also questioned about a 1961 assassination attempt directed at Castro in Cuba, in which the asset participated. He acknowledged that he, Veciana, and Bernardo Pradreres had at that time tried to kill Castro with a bazooka. They waited in an apartment, which was rented in Havana, Cuba, by Veciana's mother-in-law, for Castro to appear at the nearby Cuban capitol. Pradreres had hired two other individuals not known to the asset to do the actual firing, but when Castro finally appeared the bazooka failed to fire due to its deteriorated state from having been buried for an extended period of time. The Cuban authorities later discovered the bazooka, which had been left in the apartment, and were then able to identify all of the participants. (S)

During the initial interview of asset on April 8, 1977, he made available a photograph obtained from Antonio Veciana, which Veciana claimed to depict Lee Harvey Oswald in attendance at an Alpha 66 meeting in Dallas, Texas, in 1963. Another photograph depicted Veciana as a speaker at this meeting. The asset had made this information available to CIO's at previous meetings. In the last segment of videotaping in Mexico, the asset was confronted with enlarged photographs of the alleged Alpha 66 meeting and was asked to point out the individual similar in description to Oswald, after which the videotaping was concluded. The whole taping process lasted approximately 90 minutes and consumed almost three reels of videotape. (S)

Photographs made available by the asset were examined by FBI agents familiar with the Oswald investigation and it was determined that Lee Harvey Oswald is not depicted in these photographs. It is noted that

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Jack Anderson's column in the Washington Post on May 6, 1977, claims that Antonio Veciana has testified before the House Assassinations Committee that he was in contact with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas, in August, 1963. (U)

The above asset has furnished other sensitive intelligence information, including the identities of previously unknown CIO's, and it is anticipated that he will be of future value to our foreign counterintelligence effort. Any effort by the Cuban Government to exploit the propaganda value of information obtained from this recently developed asset over the period of seven previous meetings would necessarily cost their intelligence service the public identification of several CIO's currently in Jamaica and Mexico. You are being made aware of the above developments since it is recognized that the Cuban Government may elect to publicize this videotape for propaganda purposes and that such an event could impact upon current policy decisions. (S)

This information is also being furnished to the Secretary of State, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Attorney General.

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